

Port Phillip Baykeeper

About Port Phillip Baykeeper

Port Phillip Baykeeper operates out of the Port Phillip EcoCentre located in St Kilda Botanical Gardens, Blessington Street, St Kilda. Their vision statement below provides a valuable insight into this organisation.

Vision

An empowered community, cultivating long-term social and environmental well-being.

The EcoCentre is a leading community-managed team of scientists, educators and volunteers who design and implement innovative environmental programs. Their expertise is Port Phillip Bay health and the urban ecology of Greater Melbourne, within the traditional lands and waters of the Kulin Nation. They deliver specialist education, science-based research and community action projects.

Port Phillip Baykeeper has a range of environmental educational activities that can either be used on fieldwork trips or to support class room content. For more specific detail please go to their website <http://www.ecocentre.com/baykeeper>.

Neil Blake (Port Phillip Baykeeper) has studied and worked to protect biodiversity in urban waterways for more than 30 years. He has an in-depth understanding of plastic pollution and relevant policy and stakeholders; and has developed a suite of resources and 'catchment-wide' fieldwork activities to enable local communities and schools to inform local solutions. These would be valuable to include in your fieldwork or classroom content.

Activities regarding the health of Port Phillip Bay and the pressures it faces include:

- Shoreline shell surveys
- Beach profiling (recording sand surface levels)
- Inter-tidal mollusc surveys
- Coastal habitat and wildlife surveys
- 'Street to Bay' litter and microplastics surveys (school grounds, suburban streets, river/creek banks, and beaches)
- 'Baykeepers' film (26 min) on plastic pollution in Port Phillip Bay
- Guest Speaker regarding the source, quantity and composition of plastics in Port Phillip Bay, current and future strategies to reduce plastics in our waterways.

2. On a base map show the location of the litter surveys undertaken.

3. Referring to the results obtained from the litter survey/s undertaken comment about the following:

- The amount of plastics found (also discuss if more plastic was found on different sections of the beach).

- The composition of litter/plastics found

4. Compare your litter survey results to the data and maps that you created in the classroom. Describe the similarities and differences in the composition of plastics at your fieldwork site and that found in the Maribyrnong and Yarra Rivers.

7. If you have completed a litter survey at more than one site complete a table similar to that below.

	Site	Site
Amount of plastics found		
Composition of plastics found		
List of local environmental features impacting on the amount and composition of plastic items		

With reference to the above

- Comment on the similarities and differences between the results found at each site. Suggest factors that could account for these results.

- Comment on whether the above results support the evidence contained in the map completed in class showing the distribution of plastics in Port Phillip Bay. Suggest factors that may account for this.

Activities 8-10 could be included if you have completed the litter survey with Baykeeper or have arranged a guest speaker.

8. What impacts do plastics have on the marine environment of Port Phillip Bay?

9. Complete the table below regarding the strategies that have been implemented to reduce the impacts of plastics in Port Phillip Bay.

Name and brief description of strategy	Comment on effectiveness of strategy (consider factors such as the sustainability of the strategy and whether the strategy achieves the goals set)

